

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts Musical Theatre Department presents

A NEW WORLD

A Virtual Musical Theatre Showcase

Friday, December 11th, 2020 at 7:30 pm
Register for the event at lachs.net/boxoffice

Directed by: Erica Robson & Allison Andreas
Musical Direction by: Cassie Nickols Gonzalez
Video Editing & Visual Effects: Cameron Covell
Music Editing & Production: Ryan O'Connell

With Performances From
Songs for a New World / Hamilton / Dear Evan Hansen / The
Color Purple / Fun Home / You're A Good Man Charlie Brown / A
Chorus Line / Next to Normal / Miss Saigon / Something Rotten /
Merrily We Roll Along

artwork by Mitzi McKinnon, VA '22

*The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Musical Theatre Department presents*

A New World:

A Virtual Musical Theatre Showcase

Directed By: Erica Robson & Allison Andreas
Musical Direction By: Cassie Nickols Gonzalez
Video Editing & Visual Effects: Cameron Covell
Music Editing & Production: Ryan O' Connell
Guitar: Max Wagner
Student Production Manager: Roxy Ogle

Please be advised this showcase contains some mature themes.

Show Order

“Songs for a New World” - Full Company

“Schuyler Sisters” - Akira Sky, Leilani Patao, Monique Ramirez, and the Senior Girls

“Sincerely Me” - Andrew Bond, Drew Harris, and Sam Karpinski

“Flying Away” - Julia Wergeles, Juliana Candler, and Lily Zager

“Our Prayer” - Kaylah Copeland and Zoey Hawkins

“You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” Medley - Aiden Bontemps, Bethany LeBerthon,
Bruno Koskoff, Hazel Sepenuk, Randy Alexander Damas, and Robert Farr-Jones

“At the Ballet” - Andrea Tupas, Lulu Royce, and Shireen Estolano-Sridharan

“You Don’t Know/ I Am The One” - Evan Klein, Fintan Swift, and Karina Constantinides

“Sun & Moon” - Amelia Aguilar and Lucas Schinnerer

“God, I Hate Shakespeare” - Dominic Domenghini, Johnny Benson, Tommy Jacobs,
and the Senior Boys

“Our Time” - Full Company

CAST
by Order of Appearance

Karina Constantinides
Amelia Aguilar
Robert Farr-Jones
Aiden Bontemps
Tommy Jacobs
Andrew Bond
Johnny Benson
Drew Harris
Zoey Hawkins
Juliana Candler
Andrea Tupas
Shireen Estolano-Sridharan
Hazel Sepenuk
Akira Sky
Kaylah Copeland
Monique Ramirez
Randy Alexander Damas
Julia Wergeles
Dominic Domenghini
Sam Karpinski
Lily Zager
Lucas Schinnerer
Bethany LeBerthon
Bruno Koskoff
Fintan Swift
Lulu Royce
Evan Klein
Leilani Patao

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Amelia Aguilar is a Senior in the Music Vocal Department. She is so excited to be a part of this showcase! Past roles include: Erzulie in *Once in This Island* and Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Enjoy the show!

Johnny Benson is a 12th grader in the theatre conservatory, and is thrilled to be in his third musical theater production at LACHSA! Some of his past credits include the Baker and Narrator in *Into the Woods*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, and Conrad in *Stupid F**king Bird*. Enjoy the Show!

Andrew Bond is a Junior in the Theater Department. He is very excited to be a part of LACHSA's online showcase. His previous LACHSA shows include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *West Side Story*. Andrew would like to thank his family for all their amazing support, and the wonderful directors who made this unforgettable experience possible.

Aiden Bontemps is a student at LACHSA, but you already knew that because you're here for the show. As a Junior, he majors in Theatre and minors in Musical Theatre. Though he joined the LACHSA family pretty late, late being the 2nd semester of his sophomore year, he quickly found unity and belonging among his peers. This production in musical theatre, as he states, is amazing, and he knows that you'll love it. Though he bets that none can enjoy it more than he does.

Juliana Candler is a Junior in the Music/Vocal department. She has been in Musical Theatre for two years, and she has been in productions such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *West Side Story*. She wants to thank Mrs. Robson, Dr. Cassie and Allison for giving her the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing ensemble of extremely talented people.

Karina Constantinides is a Senior in the Vocal Music Department and this is her fifth production/musical at LACHSA. Karina is a YoungArts 2019 winner (Honorable Mention/Non Classical Voice) and a YoungArts 2020 Finalist winner. Karina is so grateful to be a part of the Musical Theatre Department and thanks her amazing family, kind friends and all her teachers at LACHSA especially Allison Andreas, Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie and Ms. Hunter.

Kaylah Copeland is a Senior in Theatre at LACHSA. She is super jazzed to be a part of her 5th LACHSA MT production. She would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, and Allison Andreas for their hard work and efforts put into the showcase, as well as her parents and siblings for supporting her passion for the arts.

Randy Alexander Damas is a junior who will be portraying the role of Snoopy in the mashup of You're A Good Man Charlie Brown. This is his first year at LACHSA and he's beyond thrilled and enthusiastic to show how grateful he is by demonstrating dedication and hard work with works such as the Musical Theatre Production Showcase. Randy has been singing with a purpose for 3 years and will continue to exhibit fabulous work with his peers in the ensemble to continue to bring a smile to your face. Enjoy the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Dominic Domenghini is a Senior in the theatre department. You may have seen him featured in various MT ensembles such as *Once On This Island*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *West Side Story* or in his breakout role as Headmaster Knochenbruch in *Spring Awakening*. Dominic couldn't be more thankful for his friends and directors who make musical theatre such a thrilling experience!

Shireen Estolano-Sridharan is a Junior in the Theatre Department and she is thrilled to be in her first Musical Theatre production. She would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, Allison, Roxy, and Ms. Hunter, and her peers for their support and guidance through her first MT experience at LACHSA. Enjoy the show!

Robert Farr-Jones is a Senior in the Dance Department and this is his third musical at LACHSA. He is so grateful for the amazing experiences LACHSA MT has provided and thanks his amazing teachers for all of the hard work and dedication they put into this program.

Drew Harris is a Senior in the Vocal and Theater Departments and has played other roles in the Musical Theater Department such as Agwe in *Once On This Island*, Georg in *Spring Awakening*, and Peter in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He is really happy for the opportunity to play Evan Hansen, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Zoey Hawkins is a Junior in the dance department here at LACHSA. She has always loved performing and has found a family in LACHSA's Musical Theatre Department. Though the process was much different this year Zoey still enjoyed recording songs and making videos for you all to see and hear! And although it's virtual, she hopes you all enjoy the show!

Tommy Jacobs is a Senior in the Theater and Vocal departments at LACHSA. This is his 4th semester in Musical Theatre. He was in the ensemble of *Spring Awakening*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *West Side Story* and he will be playing the part of Nigel Bottom from *Something Rotten* in the Musical Theater Showcase.

Samuel Karpinski is a Junior in the Theatre Department. He has been a part of LACHSA Productions such as *The Farnsworth Invention* and Musical Theatre's *Virtual West Side Story*. He would like to thank Ms. Robson & Allison for this opportunity and his parents and grandparents for all their love and support.

Akira Sky is a Senior in Vocals at LACHSA and is excited to perform in this year's Musical Theatre Showcase. She won the NEA & American Theater Wing's 2019 Musical Theatre Songwriting Challenge and also received Gold and Bronze wins in Music Composition at the NAACP's ACT-SO 2019 & 2020 Nationals. She would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, and Allison Andreas for a great semester!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Evan Klein is a Senior in the Theatre Department. He is a 2020 Spotlight Grand Prize Finalist in Acting, 2019 YoungArts Winner, and a 2019 NYA winner. He thanks his wonderful mom, his teachers, Ms Hunter, Dominic, and some good pizza.

Bruno Koskoff is a Senior in the Dance, and Theatre Department and is ecstatic to be in his second Musical Theatre production at LACHSA. He would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, Allison, and his friends in the department for all of their contributions and support during this process.

Bethany LeBerthon is a Junior in the Theatre Department and is very excited to be a part of her first LACHSA Musical Theatre production. This will be her first official show at LACHSA, and she would like to thank her family and the LACHSA Musical Theatre department for welcoming her and making this experience a magical one.

Roxy Ogle is a Junior in the Theatre and Tech department. She is thrilled to be the student stage manager for this fantastic production. She wants to shout out all the amazing performers who put a lot of work into this show, as well as Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, Allison, and Ms. Hunter. She truly hopes you enjoy the show!

Leilani Patao is a Junior in the Music Vocals Department. Her previous roles at LACHSA include Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Somewhere Soloist in *West Side Story*, and Edwin Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She is so excited to be in such a wonderful cast and thanks Mrs. Robson, Dr. Cassie and Allison Andreas for this amazing opportunity unlike any other!

Monique Ramirez is a Senior Vocalist at LACHSA and is excited to perform the role of Peggy in “The Schuyler Sisters!” The Musical Theatre Department has given her a second family and constantly implements new ways to help students improve in their craft. She hopes you enjoy this virtual experience and are staying safe during this time!

Lulu Royce is a Junior in the Theatre Department at LACHSA. She is so glad to have such a wonderful platform like musical theatre as an outlet during these trying times. She would like to thank Erica Robson, Dr. Cassie and Allison Andreas for giving her this opportunity, Roxy Ogle for being a wonderful stage manager, and her friends and family for being so supportive and not getting annoyed every time her green screen fell down. She hopes you enjoy the virtual show!

Lucas Schinnerer is a Junior in the Vocal Department at LACHSA and is so excited to be a part of this virtual performance this year. He has always loved singing and he is overjoyed at the opportunities given to him this year. Even though it's online he still hopes you all enjoy the show!

Hazel Sepenuk is the only Cinematic Arts student in the showcase this year. She has performed in the live *Jesus Christ Superstar* and had a featured role in the *West Side Story* online last semester. She is so grateful that Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, and Allison found a way to give such a nurturing, exciting, and educational experience while online, and she is so excited for everyone to see what's to come!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Fintan Swift is a Senior in the Theatre department. He is stoked to be in his fifth LACHSA Musical Theatre production. Previous LACHSA musical theatre roles: Riff (*West Side Story*) Jesus (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Hanschen (*Spring Awakening*), Papa Ge (*Once On This Island*). He would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, Allison, and the cast for an incredible experience.

Andrea Tupas is a Senior in the Theatre Department and is excited to be a part of this semester's production! This is her third musical theatre production at LACHSA. Andrea's LACHSA Theatre Productions include *Sweat* directed by Ms. Hunter and the Fall Radio Play directed by Mr. Fairbanks. She would also like to thank Ms. Robson, Allison Andreas, and Dr. Cassie for this opportunity!

Julia Wergeles is a Junior in Theatre. This is her first show as a member of the Musical Theatre Department. Even though the show is online and we can't be in person, she is very excited for everyone to enjoy what her and her classmates put together :)

Lily Zager is a Sophomore in the Vocal Department. She is beyond excited to be in her first musical at LACHSA. She would like to thank Ms. Robson, Dr. Cassie, and Allison Andreas for their guidance and support and bringing lots of joy during this time.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

ERICA ROBSON, Director / Choreographer / Producer / Department Chair

Erica Robson has been a working dancer, actress, teacher, director and award-winning choreographer in the field of performing arts for more than twenty-five years. Her film credits include featured roles in Ocean's Eleven, Looney Tunes: Back in Action, Monkeybone, and Bedazzled. She was a series regular on Ultimate Revenge and has been featured on The Drew Carey Show, Nikki, The Monk Show, Swingtown, Eli Stone, How I Met Your Mother, and Glee. Her National and International Tours include *A Chorus Line*, *Jane's Addiction*, and *Chayanne*. Erica worked as an associate director/choreographer on the television shows *So You Think You Can Dance* and *America's Got Talent*, as well as various musicals, industrials, music videos and dance concerts. Erica has created dance programs for high schools in the Montebello Unified School District and A.G.B.U. Manoogian-Demirdjian School, and is currently the Chair of the Musical Theatre Department at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and the Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at A.G.B.U. Manoogian-Demirdjian School. Erica was recognized as a U.S. Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teacher for her work at LACHSA. Erica is also a guest choreographer and teacher at Everybody Dance! - Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation, The Windward School, and California State Summer School for the Arts. Erica's goal is to continue to inspire and contribute excellence in the field of performing arts.

ALLISON ANDREAS, Director

An Ovation Award winning actress, Allison Andreas has been working professionally for more than 15 years. Select credits include: Baz Luhrmann's *La Bohème* (Center Theatre Group), *Romeo & Juliet* (The Vagrancy), *As You Like It* (The Vagrancy), *Melissa & Joey*, *Ghost Whisper*, *8 Simple Rules*, *Malcolm in the Middle* and *Drake & Josh*. Allison graduated from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee with a Bachelors in Fine Arts in Theatrical Performance with a focus in Classical Acting. She has also studied at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Allison is a proud LACHSA alumni, graduating from the Theatre and Musical Theatre Departments in 2013. She is ecstatic to have a chance to learn and work with her former teachers, Ms. Robson and Ms. Hunter. She is very excited to be working at LACHSA and have the opportunity to teach and support the next generation of artists.

CASSANDRA NICKOLS GONZALEZ, Musical Director

Dr. Cassandra Nickols-Gonzalez, a Los Angeles native, began her piano studies at the age of three, and since the start of her career, has become a sought-after accompanist, musical director, performer, teacher, and coach. She received her Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees all in Piano Performance from the Thornton School of Music at USC where she won such accolades as Most Outstanding Graduate as well as Studio Teaching Assistant for the Keyboard Arts Department faculty. An ovation-nominated music director, her performances and musical experiences have taken her to New York and London and range from solo classical piano recitals to rock concerts; from musical theatre productions to Greek Folk Dance and Music Festivals; from intimate chamber music performances to movie recording sessions.

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